

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /121 W
-----020662 050003Z /65

R 042023Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1151
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01796

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AORG, PORG, UNGA, SF, UR, WA
SUBJECT: SOVIET STATEMENT ON ARTICLE 19 AT UNGA SPECIAL
SESSION ON NAMIBIA

REF: USUN 1786 (NOTAL)

1. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING VOTE IN MAY 3 PLENARY OF UNGA
SPECIAL SESSION ON NAMIBIA, SOVIET DEL FOKINE TOOK THE
FLOOR ON POINT OF ORDER. THE VOTE ON THE DRAFT DECLARA-
TION (REFTEL) HAD BEEN A ROLL CALL VOTE, AND THEREFORE,
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IN ACCORDANCE WITH UN CHARTER ARTICLE 19, THOSE MEMBER
STATES WHO WERE TWO YEARS IN ARREARS IN THEIR ASSESSED
CONTRIBUTIONS WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE VOTE (I.E. NAMES
WERE NOT CALLED). ALL SUCH STATES HAD BEEN NOTIFIED IN
ADVANCE THAT THEY WOULD BE UNABLE TO VOTE AND NONE HAD
ATTEMPTED TO VOTE. (USYG BUFFUM HAD MADE EXPLANATORY
STATEMENT TO THIS EFFECT IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO VOTE.)

FOKINE REITERATED THE STANDING SOVIET POSITION THAT THE LOSS OF VOTE PROVISION IN ARTICLE 19 SHOULD NOT BE AUTOMATICALLY APPLIED BUT REQUIRES A DECISION OF THE ASSEMBLY UNDER ARTICLE 18(2) OF THE CHARTER. THE GA PRESIDENT SAID THAT THE POSITION OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION WOULD BE DULY RECORDED IN THE VERBATIM RECORD OF THE MEETING. THERE WERE NO OTHER STATEMENTS OR DISCUSSION.

2. WE UNDERSTAND FROM SECRETARIAT (LONG) THAT BUFFUM EXPLANATION WAS MADE BECAUSE HE HAD LEARNED OF SOVIETS' INTENTION TO STATE THEIR POSITION. SOVIET DECISION APPARENTLY RESULTED FROM FACT THAT AT TIME OF ROLL-CALL VOTE IN SPECIAL SESSION'S AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON MAY 2, COMMITTEE SECRETARY (SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL) HAD INCORRECTLY CALLED NAMES OF THOSE STATES SUBJECT TO ARTICLE 19 SANCTION. THIS HAD CAUSED SOME CONFUSION (IN A VOTING SITUATION THAT WAS CONFUSED IN ANY EVENT; SEE USUN 1766). PRESUMABLY SOVIETS DECIDED TO MAKE CERTAIN THERE WAS NO QUESTION ABOUT THEIR VIEWS ON THE MATTER. YOUNG

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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